

6. (Amended) The set of dispensing tips of claim 1, wherein said sealable end of said first dispensing tip is sealed, and said first dispensing tip forms a cuvette.

7. (Amended) The set of dispensing tips of claim 1, wherein said sealable end of said first dispensing tip is sealed, and said first dispensing tip forms a reservoir.

8. (Amended) The set of dispensing tips of claim 1, wherein said sealable end of said first dispensing tip is sealed, and said first dispensing tip forms a reaction chamber.

9. (Amended) The set of dispensing tips of claim 1, wherein said sealable end of said first dispensing tip is sealed, and said first dispensing tip forms an incubation chamber.

10. (Amended) The set of dispensing tips of claim 1, wherein said sealable end of said first dispensing tip is sealed, and said first dispensing tip forms a dilution chamber.

11. (Amended) The set of dispensing tips of claim 1, wherein said sealable end of said first dispensing tip is sealed, and said second dispensing tip is sized to reach the sealed end of said first dispensing tip.

12. (Amended) A method for manipulating a sample comprising:

- i) aspirating said sample into a first dispensing tip having a first and a second end, said second end being sealable;
- ii) sealing said sealable end of said first dispensing tip to produce a sealed dispensing tip, and
- iii) inserting a second dispensing tip into said sealed dispensing tip, and aspirating said sample within said sealed dispensing tip, or
- iv) withdrawing a diluent or reagent into said second dispensing tip and dispensing said diluent or said reagent into said sealed dispensing tip containing said sample to form a mixture with said sample.

13. (Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein in said step of sealing (step ii), said sealable end of said first dispensing tip is sealed by compression.

14. (Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein in said step of sealing (step ii), said sealable end of said first dispensing tip is sealed by heat.

15. (Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein in said step of sealing (step ii), said sealable end of said first dispensing tip is sealed with a cap, or by plugging with a material.

18. (Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein after said step of aspirating (step i), and before said step of sealing (step ii), said sample is displaced from said second end toward said first end of said first dispensing tip.

20. (Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said step of withdrawing (step iv) [involves dispensing one or more fluids, and] is followed by removing said mixture into said second dispensing tip and dispensing said mixture into said sealed first dispensing tip (step v).

Please add the following new claims 22-28:

22. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein said step of removing said sample (step v) is repeated one or more times.

23. (New) A method of sealing a dispensing tip containing a sample, said dispensing tip comprising a first and a second end, said second end being sealable, the method comprising displacing said sample from said sealable second end toward said first end, and sealing said sealable end.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein said sample is displaced from said sealable end using a vacuum.

25. (New) The set of dispensing tips of claim 1, wherein said first dispensing tip is transparent or translucent.

26. (New) The set of dispensing tips of claim 1, wherein said sealable end of said first dispensing tip is sealed by compression.

27. (New) The set of dispensing tips of claim 1, wherein said sealable end of said first dispensing tip is sealed by heat.

28. (New) The set of dispensing tips of claim 1, wherein said sealable end of said first dispensing tip is sealed with a cap, or by plugging with a material.